

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are pending in this application. Of these pending claims, Claims 1-26, stand rejected. By way of this paper, Claim 1 has been amended.

The foregoing amendments and following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the outstanding office action, and are believed to place the application in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1, 6-8, 13-15, 17, 21, 22, 24, and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by the Anagnostopoulos et al. ('595) reference.

Independent Claim 1 has been amended, without changing its scope, to more clearly point out that the fluid drop steering device is operable to optionally apply energy insufficient to cause drop formation to fluid present in the fluid chamber prior to the fluid being ejected from the orifice. Support for this amendment can be found in Claim 1 as originally filed and on at least page 12, lines 9-16 and page 17, lines 17-19 of the specification.

The Anagnostopoulos et al. ('595) reference discloses that heater 50 is separated from substrate 42 which includes an ink delivery channel 40 and nozzle bore 46 formed therein (Figs 2A and 3; col. 4, lines 23-26) by insulating layers 56 in order to minimize heat loss to substrate 42 (Figs. 2A and 3; col. 4, lines 47-49). As such, heater 50 does not optionally apply energy ... to fluid present in the fluid chamber as described in Claim 1. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection of Claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 also includes the feature of the fluid drop steering device being distinct from the fluid drop forming mechanism which allows, for example, subtle changes in droplet positioning to be effected without changing the overall control sequence required for droplet ejection as described on at least page 17, lines 12-19 of the specification.

The Anagnostopoulos et al. ('595) reference discloses that heater 50 is a segmented heater (segments S1 through S4 shown in Fig. 5A; segments S1 through S8 shown in Fig. 6A) and that appropriate actuation of one or more of the segments of heater 50 causes drop formation (col. 4, lines 29-31) and drop deflection (col. 4, lines 65-67; col. 5, lines 4-11). As heater 50 is both a drop steering device and a drop forming mechanism, the Anagnostopoulos et al. ('595)

reference does not disclose a fluid drop steering device being distinct from the fluid drop forming mechanism as described in Claim 1. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection of Claim 1 is respectfully requested.

The remainder of the claims being dependent from Claim 1 are considered patentable for at least the same reasons set forth above which state a basis for the allowance of Claim 1.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 2-4, 19, 23 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Anagnostopoulos et al. ('595) reference in view of the Sharma et al. ('973) reference. Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Anagnostopoulos et al. ('595) reference in view of the Sharma et al. ('973) reference and further in view of the Hawkins et al. ('197) reference. Claims 9-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Anagnostopoulos et al. ('595) reference in view of the Dante et al. ('547) references. Claims 16, 18 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Anagnostopoulos et al. ('595) reference in view of the Jeanmaire ('362) reference.

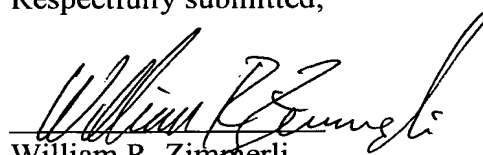
Claims 2-5, 9-12, 16, 18-20, 23, and 25 depend either directly or indirectly from independent Claim 1 and are considered patentable for at least the same reasons set forth above which state a basis for the allowance of Claim 1. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection of Claims 2-5, 9-12, 16, 18-20, 23, and 25 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that, in view of the above amendments and remarks, this application is now in condition for allowance, prompt notice of which is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned in the event that a phone interview will expedite prosecution of this application towards allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William R. Zimmerli", written over a horizontal line.

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If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.